

In the Specification

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 1, with the following paragraph:

In one form, the method of the present invention includes sintering the green compact by induction heating. The use of induction sintering of green compacts formed from metallurgical powders, which may include an amount of sponge iron, is an invention disclosed in detail in co-pending United States patent application Serial *now abandoned* No. 09/887,287 (hereinafter referred to as the "co-pending application"). The entire disclosure of that co-pending application is incorporated by reference herein. Induction sintering is facilitated by the method of the present invention because the metallurgical powders may lack or be substantially free of internal lubricants. Induction sintering requires substantially less time and energy consumption relative to conventional sintering using an electric or gas-fired batch, pusher, or belt sintering furnace.

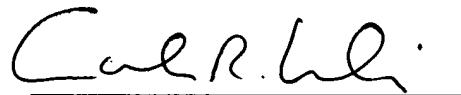
DISCUSSION

The present Preliminary Amendment amends the specification. The sole amendment is to include reference to the serial number of a co-pending U.S. patent

application referenced in another way in the filed version of the present application. A copy of the amended paragraph showing deleted material bracketed and added material underlined is attached.

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims of the present application should be held patentable. Accordingly, passage of the claims to allowance at an early date is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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